OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL



30th JUDICIAL DISTRICT ~ SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE 201 Poplar Avenue, Third Floor, Memphis, TN 38103-1947 Tel. 901-222-1300 ~ Fax 901-222-1305 www.scdag.com

AMY P. WEIRICH District Attorney General

The Honorable A C Wharton Mayor, City of Memphis 125 North Main, Suite 700 Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Re: Request for Funding

OCT 7 2014

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Dear Mayor Wharton:

Reducing violent crime in the City of Memphis is a top priority of both of our offices. To achieve that goal, this office is currently working closely with the Memphis Police Department (MPD) to hold violent offenders accountable and positively impact lives within the city limits. Our partnership with MPD means that twenty-four (24) assistant district attorneys perform tasks in addition to their full-time courtroom responsibilities. They do so willingly and with encouraging results. The three (3) initiatives involving our office and the Memphis Police Department are: 1.) GunStat 2.) precinct teams and 3.) civil gang injunctions.

I am requesting funding from the City of Memphis for two (2) additional prosecutors so that we can continue the above-listed work. My reasons for the request and a brief explanation of these initiatives follow.

- 1.) I know you are very familiar with GunStat. Currently, there are two (2) prosecutors assigned to each of the two (2) selected precinct wards. They also have full-time courtroom responsibilities. Because we are seeing encouraging results through this collaboration, Crump Station has requested that we add them to the model and we have agreed to do so. This will stretch our resources but the impact, hopefully, will outweigh the burden.
- 2.) Precinct Teams: Less than a year ago, Director Armstrong moved several investigative bureaus from 201 Poplar to the precincts. This decision meant that we had to find a new way to perform our daily advising duties as we would no-longer be able to access the bureaus via elevator. As a result, we created precinct teams. Two (2) prosecutors are assigned to each of the nine (9) precincts. They are required to physically visit each precinct at least once a week and take calls from officers 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. I believe Dir. Armstrong would tell you this access has proven invaluable for his officers. I can tell you that any chance we have to be out in the community helps us be

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even better public servants. Again, this duty is in addition to full-time courtroom work.

3.) Gang Injunctions: Again, this is a topic with which you are familiar. Two (2) injunctions have been filed to date. From an investigative and legal standpoint, injunctions are incredibly labor-intensive. Having additional prosecutors to supplement the Multi Agency Gang Unit Prosecution Team would allow us to use this civil remedy more often.

My request is for permanent funding from the city for two (2) assistant district attorneys. The current cost for salary and benefits per prosecutor is approximately \$85,000 for a total of \$170,000.

Thank you for your commitment and partnership. I look forward to hearing from you.

(11/13/0

Sincerely,

AMY P. WEIRICH

District Attorney General

APW/cjg